



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/441,199	11/16/1999	TAKANARI YAMAGUCHI	2185-0380P	3990
7590	07/23/2004		EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH LLP P O BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 220400747			MULLIS, JEFFREY C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1711	
DATE MAILED: 07/23/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/441,199	YAMAGUCHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jeffrey C. Mullis	1711

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 24 June 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.

b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.

2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:

- they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
- they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
- they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
- they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.

4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).

5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: see attachment.

6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.

7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: 5 and 13.

Claim(s) rejected: 1-4 and 10-12.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: 6-9.

8. The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.

10. Other: _____.

Jeffrey C. Mullis
J Mullis
Art Unit: 1711

ATTACHMENT TO ADVISORY ACTION

Applicants' arguments filed 6-24-04 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive.

The Examiner has reviewed applicants' "extrusion" article in the "Handbook of Plastic Materials and Technology". However the Examiner does not agree with applicants' implication that since Ota fails to use the term "melt-fed extruder" or some term similar to the term "melt-fed extruder" that a "side feeder" of Ota described at the first line of page 14 thereof does not melt feed a component. Ota discloses components A and B in their process "melt-kneads the component (C) by the side feeder". Therefore the side feeder melt kneads the component (C). Absent the phrase "melt-kneads component (C) by the side feeder", those of ordinary skill in the art might indeed conclude that solid material is fed into the extruder. However the phrase "melt kneads the component (C) by the side feeder" constitutes a teaching otherwise and therefore it cannot be said that Ota is "absent any teaching otherwise" as applicants allege at the bottom of page 3 of their remarks. While it is true that lines 6-9 of page 14 do not recite the word "melt" or "molten", there is no reason why those skilled in the art would conclude rubber was not melted merely because the term melt or molten was not repeated. Applicants argue that feeding molten rubber from one

Art Unit 1711

extruder to another would constitute a second cycle of melt kneading which would be contradictory to the teachings of the reference. However there is nothing in the reference to indicate such a narrow meaning of the term "one cycle". The rubber in Ota based on the Examiner's interpretation undergoes melting but once even if it is passed from one extruder to another and therefore could reasonably be said to undergo only one cycle of melt kneading. There would be no second cycle of melt kneading in the extruder which receives a molten rubber from the "side feeder" of Ota since the rubber from the side feeder of Ota was already molten and could not be said to undergo melting since melting would involve a transition from solid to a melted state.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey Mullis whose telephone number is (571) 272-1075. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 to 6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck, can be reached on (571) 272-1078. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-0994.

Serial No. 09/441,199

-4-

Art Unit 1711

J. Mullis:cdc

July 15, 2004

Jeffrey Mullis
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1711

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mullis", is positioned below the printed name and title.